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For local media

PRESS RELEASE

Dudley Group Trust going smoke-free

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital and Guest and Corbett outpatient centres, is going smoke-free from Monday 3rd June 2019.

Patients and visitors – along with staff – will not be able to smoke or vape anywhere on Trust premises, inside or out.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Trust, said: “As a healthcare Trust we clearly wish to promote a healthy environment. Since 2007 smoking has not been allowed in hospital buildings and everyone understands and respects that. Now we need to extend that to our wider estates, including our car parks.

“At the request of Public Health England we will be removing our smoking shelters and asking visitors, patients and staff to refrain from smoking. Smoking remains the leading cause of premature death in the UK.

“We will be supporting our staff who wish to use this opportunity to quit smoking by providing free support to them ready for 3rd June.”

Smoking accounts for half of the health gap between the poorest and most affluent people. This move will mark an important milestone in reducing the impact of tobacco dependency within our community.

For the Trust and the wider NHS it will eventually mean fewer admissions, shorter patient stays and a population that ages more healthily. Trusts which have already gone smoke-free are reporting a positive response from patients, visitors and staff as well as demonstrating a reduction in staff sickness.

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